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(29 July - 11 August 1952)

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SUMMARY

In agriculture, there is continued concentration of attention on every aspect of the current harvesting campaign, including the prevention of grain theft on the fields and in transit. There is evidence that combine-harvesting will not cover the acreage specified in the plan, between 75% and 90% of the total grain area. Wider use of draft animals is already being urged in places where equipment failures threaten to jeopardize field operations. Evidence of damages to crops from natural causes is seen in the frequent references to "downed grain crops" (polegshie khleba), and in the insistence on equipping machinery with stalk-raising devices in order to salvage as much of the grain as possible. Uzbek manpower must be augmented by a large number of women, if the cotton-picking campaign is to be successful, according to a report from Tashkent. Manpower shortage also appears to be responsible for the sad state of affairs on some of the Kazakhstan cotton fields, although "insufficient ardor" is vaguely referred to as the chief reason.

The training for and promotion to leading Party and other positions of young men and women from among the local population is urged by the Ukrainian and Lithuanian press. This policy is urged in view of the admitted tendency among local officials to enlist the services of executive workers from other parts of the country. That the regional radio and press are treading on safe ground in pursuing this line is evidenced from occasional PRAVDA items (not usually broadcast) advocating more trained cadres among the local and presumably non-Russian population of the various Republics. References to corrupt practices in Party activities are made in context of criticism and self-criticism, neither of which is as "popular" with Communist officials as the Government would like it to be.

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